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(54) Distress pennant

(57) A distress pennant for motorists, particularly disabled drivers, comprises a collapsible panel 10 suitable to carry markings 12, which can be mounted on the outside of a vehicle without the need for the driver to get out of the vehicle. The pennant is preferably mounted on the driver's car door window using mounting means 18 and is held rigid and in the correct position so as to display the panel by using retaining means which is preferably a suction pad 24. The panel is preferably made of plastics material and is reflective.

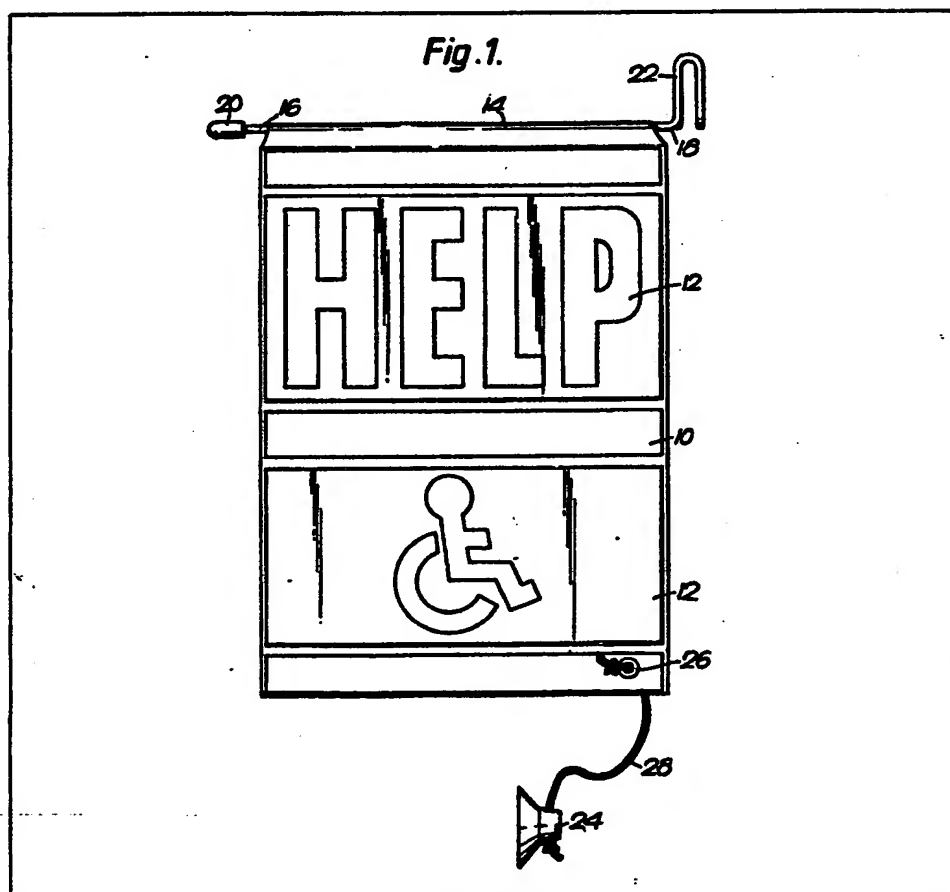


Fig. 1.

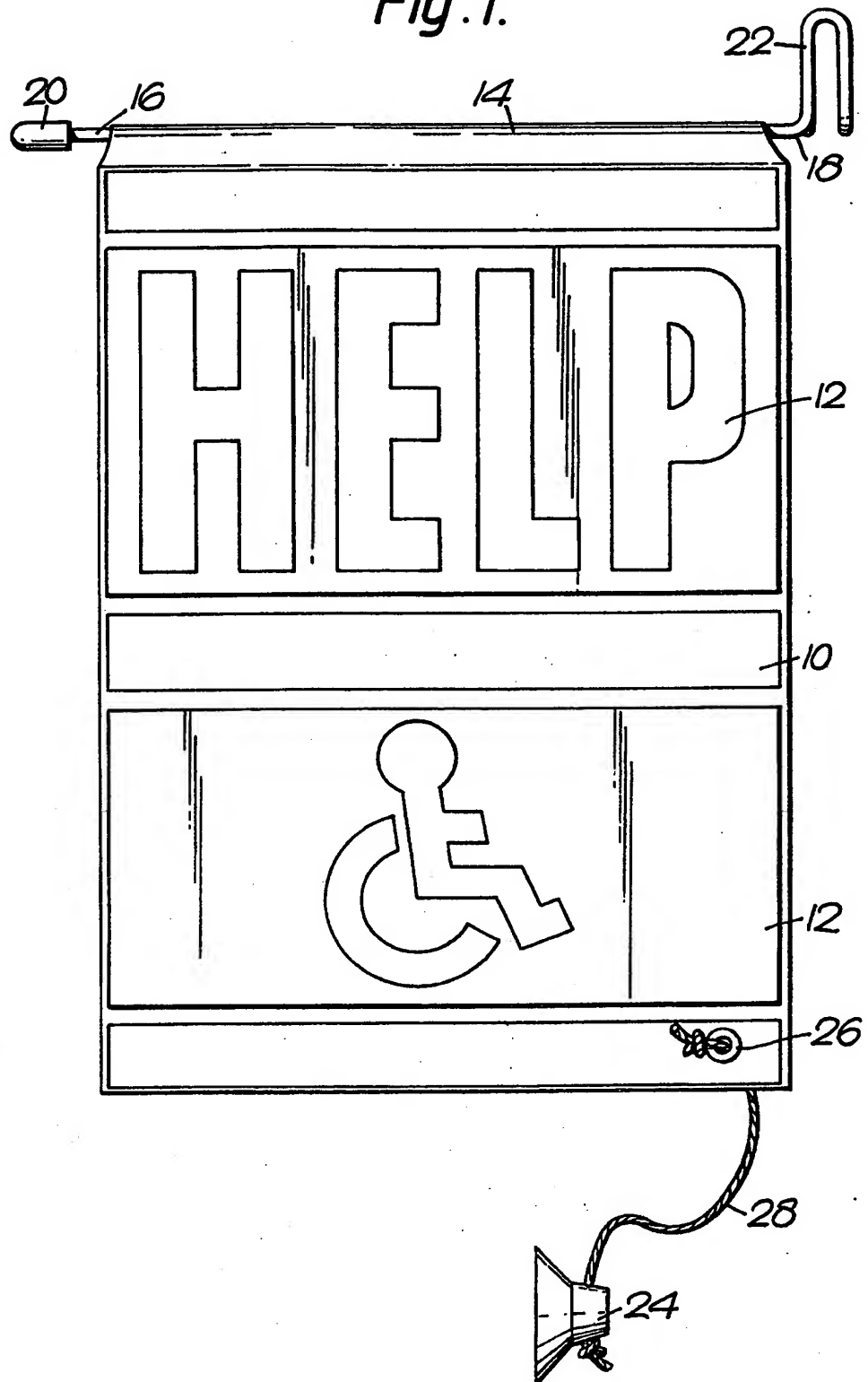


Fig. 2.

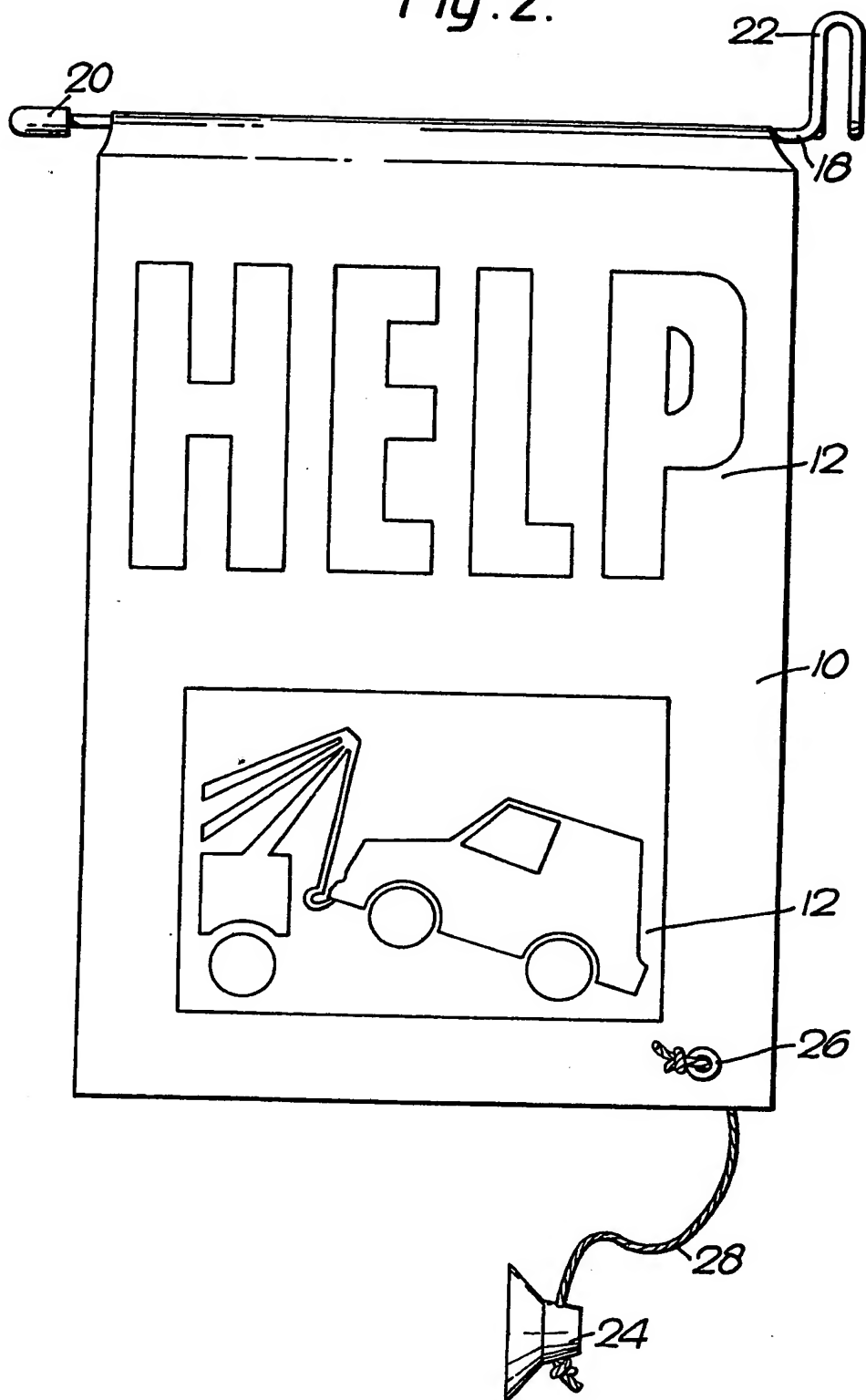


Fig. 3.

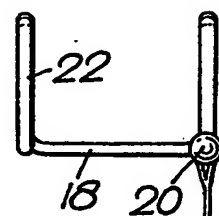
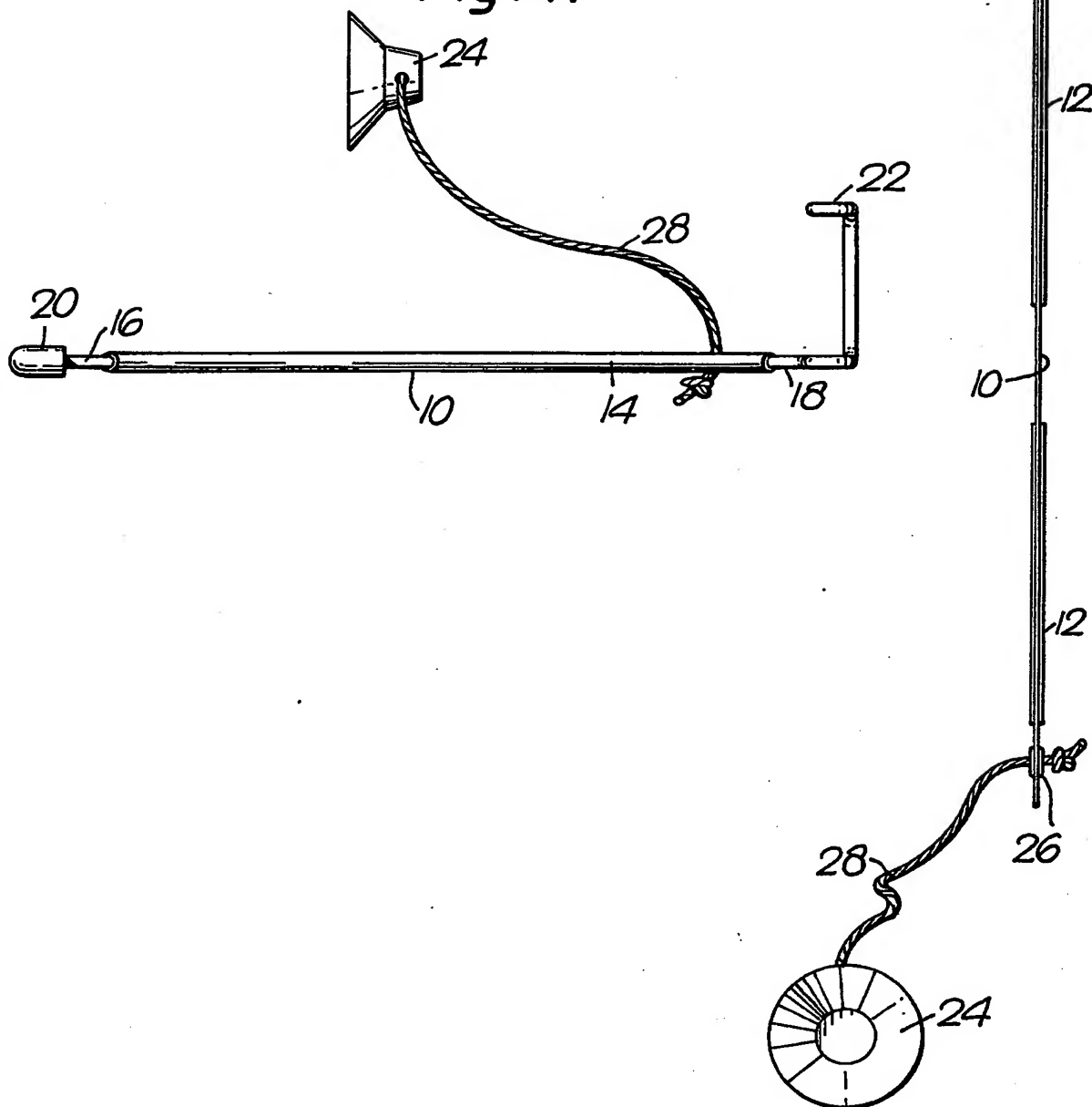


Fig. 4.



SPECIFICATION

Distress pennant

5 This invention relates to distress pennants for motorists and particularly to such pennants which can be mounted for display on the outside of a vehicle without the need for the motorist to leave his vehicle.

10 Such pennants are particularly useful for disabled drivers who may have difficulty getting out of their vehicles, or for motorists who break down on motorways where it would be dangerous to leave their vehicles due to passing traffic moving at high speed.

15 Previously in order for a motorist to indicate clearly that he needs assistance it would be necessary for him to leave his vehicle. Any flag or pennant which was used would have a tendency to flap about due to winds or would not be clearly displayed.

20 It is an object of the present invention to provide a distress pennant which can be mounted on the outside of a vehicle, without the driver having to leave his vehicle, which can be kept near to the driver in the passenger compartment of the vehicle e.g. a glove compartment, and which can be clearly seen by passing drivers or pedestrians.

25 According to the present invention there is provided a distress pennant for motorists, mounting means for said panel such that the panel can be mounted on the outside of a vehicle from within said vehicle, and retaining means operable to hold said panel rigid and in the correct position so as to display said panel when mounted on the outside of a vehicle.

30 Preferably said mounting means comprises a rod to which is attached the top edge of the panel, and a clip which is adapted to fit over the top edge of a vehicle door window.

35 The pennant can thus be mounted on the outside of the vehicle by the motorist while sitting in the driver's seat by fitting the mounting means over the window in the driver's door.

40 Preferably the retaining means comprises a suction pad which is attachable to the body of a vehicle and which is connected to said panel by a length of cord or elastic

45 The suction pad can be attached to the outside of the driver's door without the driver leaving his vehicle.

50 Suitably the panel can be collapsed when not in use by folding and/or rolling. The distress pennant can therefore be kept near to the driver in the passenger compartment.

Advantageously the panel is reflective so that it is more easily seen.

55 Suitably the panel is made of a sheet of plastics material and can then be easily folded or rolled while not in use, and is also waterproof and will not tear easily.

60 The panel may be provided with distress markings indicating that the motorist is a

disabled driver.

Alternatively the panel may be provided with distress markings indicating that the vehicle has broken down.

70 Alternatively the panel may be provided with any form of distress markings desired.

The distress pennant can thus be used for a variety of purposes by using different markings and signs on the panel.

75 An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

80 *Figure 1* shows a front view of the pennant according to the invention with distress markings for a disabled driver.

Figure 2 shows a similar view but with distress markings indicating a broken down vehicle.

85 *Figure 3* shows an end elevation of the pennant according to the invention.

Figure 4 shows a plan view of the pennant according to the invention.

90 The distress pennant shown in Figs. 1 to 4 comprises a panel 10 made of a sheet of plastics material on which are carried markings 12. The top edge 14 of panel 10 is attached to a rod 16 which forms part of a mounting means 18 for the panel 10. The rod 95 16 is provided with an end stop 20 to prevent the panel sliding off the end of the rod. The mounting means also comprises a clip 22. A suction pad 24 is attached to the lower corner of the panel 1 by a length of cord 28, 100 through eyelet 26.

In use, the driver of a vehicle would wind down his car door window sufficiently to allow him to place the clip 22 over the top edge of the window. The suction pad 24 would then 105 be attached to the outside of the car door so that the panel 10 is pulled taut and rigid so as to fully display the markings thereon. In this way the pennant can be mounted and displayed outside the vehicle without the 110 driver needing to get out.

In Fig. 1 the panel is provided with a word "HELP" and a sign indicating that the driver is disabled.

115 In Fig. 2 the panel is provided with the word "HELP" and a sign indicating that the vehicle has broken down.

Other distress markings could of course be used for a variety of purposes.

120 The panels can be produced in a variety of colours and are preferably reflective.

When not in use the panels can be folded or rolled up for easy storage near to the driver.

125 Instead of the mounting means being adapted to fit over the door window, they may instead be attachable to the outside edge of the door itself.

CLAIMS:

130 1. A distress pennant for motorists, com-

prising a collapsible panel adapted to carry markings, releasable mounting means for said panel such that the panel can be releasably mounted on the outside of a vehicle from within said vehicle, and retaining means to hold said panel rigid and in the correct position so as to display said panel when mounted on the outside of a vehicle.

2. A distress pennant according to Claim 1, wherein said mounting means comprises a rod to which is attached the top edge of the panel, and a clip which is adapted to fit over the top edge of a vehicle door window.

3. A distress pennant according to Claims 1 or 2, wherein the retaining means comprises a suction pad which is attachable to the body of a vehicle and which is connected to said panel by a length of cord.

4. A distress pennant according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the panel can be collapsed when not used by folding and/or rolling.

5. A distress pennant according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the panel is reflecting.

6. A distress pennant according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the panel is made of a sheet of plastics material.

7. A distress pennant according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the panel is provided with distress markings indicating that the motorist is a disabled driver.

8. A distress pennant according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the panel is provided with distress markings indicating that the vehicle has broken down.

9. A distress pennant for motorists as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs 1, 3 and 4 or Figs 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.